

(3, 5), and a drive (27) connected to said pull element (25), said drive being located outside the tank and cover.

~~17~~17. (new) Oven (2) according to claim 16, further comprising a lifting device (33) for lifting the cover (35) and the conveyor belt system (1) relative to the tank (34). ~~17~~

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The specification has been amended as needed so as to place this application in condition for disposal at the time of the next Official Action.

The claims previously in the case have been replaced by a set of new claims that are believed to be proper as to form and clearly patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over BENSON et al. 3,309,981 in view of NARAMURA 5,549,040.

NARAMURA discloses a common drive having two pantographs 1, actuated by means of upwardly sloping surfaces of the arm 5 which are in contact with rollers 3.

Such a mechanism is not suitable for the hot environment of an oven according to the invention. The cooking oil would attack the rollers and multiple pivots in this mechanism.